2021

AP® CollegeBoard

# AP® Music Theory

## Sample Student Responses and Scoring Commentary

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**Free Response Question 3**

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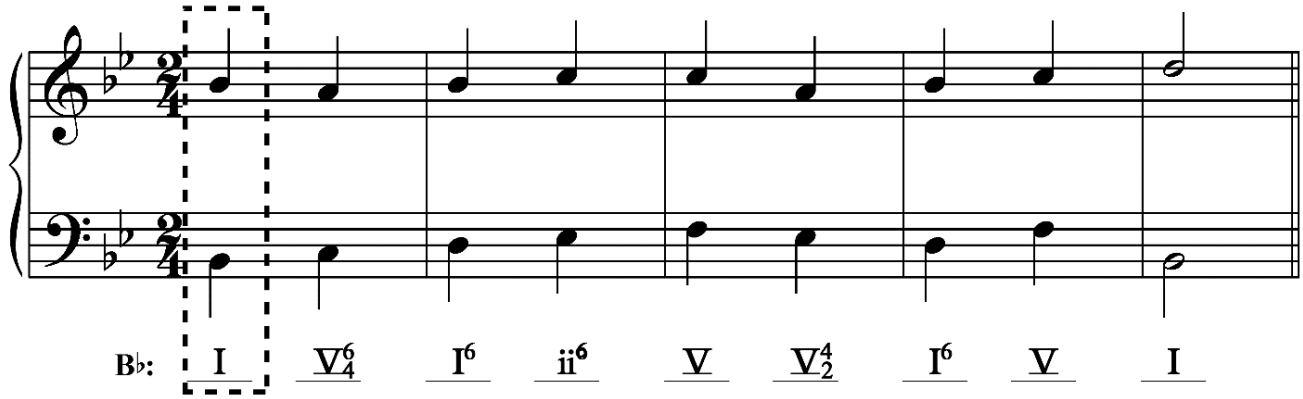
## Question 3: Harmonic Dictation — 24 points




### I. Pitches

**A.** Award 1 point for each correctly notated pitch. Do not consider duration. (An accidental placed *after* the notehead is not considered correct notation.)

**B.** Award full credit for octave transpositions of the correct bass pitch. (Octave transpositions of soprano pitches are *not* allowed.)

**C.** No enharmonic equivalents are allowed.

**1 point per pitch (max 16)**

### II. Chord Symbols

**A.** Award 1 point for each chord symbol correct in both Roman and Arabic numerals.

**B.** Award ½ point for each correct Roman numeral that has incorrect or missing Arabic numerals.

**C.** Accept the correct Roman numeral regardless of its case.

**D.** Award no credit if an accidental is placed before a Roman numeral.

**E.** The passing six-four may be correctly labeled as shown above. Also award 1 point for the labels "P $\frac{6}{4}$" or "passing $\frac{6}{4}$" for the passing six-four. Award ½ point for "P" with no figures or incorrect figures.

**F.** When a chord with the same Roman numeral occurs twice in succession (e.g., $\mathrm{I}$ - $\mathrm{I}^6$ or $\mathrm{V}$ - $\mathrm{V}\,\frac{4}{2}$), if the Roman numeral below the first occurrence of the chord is correct, then the Roman numeral below the second occurrence of the chord is also considered correct if figures are written with no Roman numeral or if a dash is written. In order to receive full credit, the correct Arabic numeral(s) must be written below the second occurrence of the chord.

**1 point per complete chord symbol (max 8)**

### III. Rounding Fractional Scores

Half-point totals round up with one exception: A total score of 23½ rounds down to 23.

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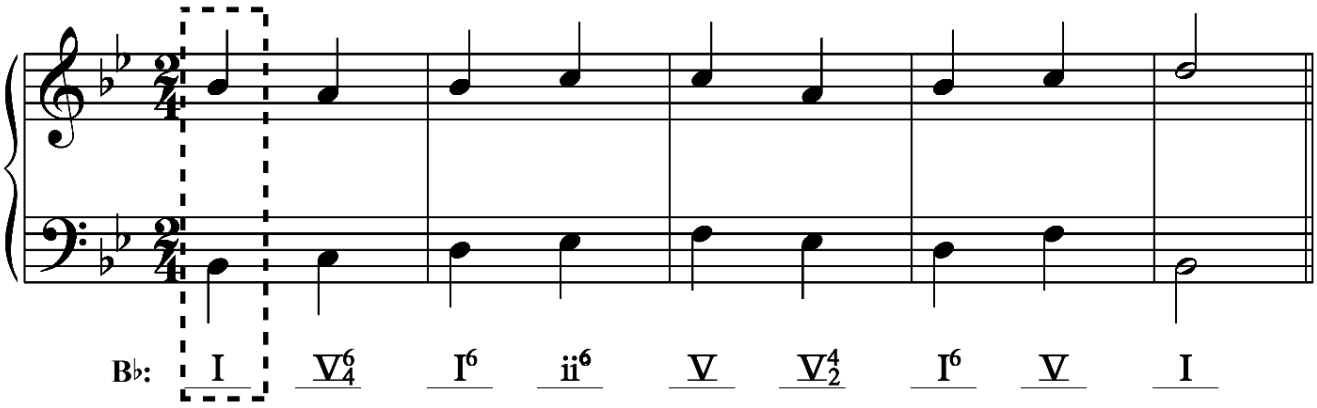
## IV. Scores with Additional Meaning

**0** This score is used for a response that represents an unsuccessful attempt to answer the question or a response that is off-topic or irrelevant.

**NR** Reserved for blank responses.

**Total for question 3 24 points**

*Record points for soprano pitches in row 1, for bass pitches in row 2, and for chord symbols in row 3.*




| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Soprano pitches:* | | | | | | | | | |
| *Bass pitches:* | | | | | | | | | |
| *Chord symbols:* | | | | | | | | | |

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**Write your response to QUESTION 3 on this page.**

**Questions 3-4**

For each of these questions, you will hear a harmonic progression in four parts. In each case, the progression will be played four times. There will be a pause of 30 seconds after the first playing and a one-minute pause after each subsequent playing. For each question, please do the following.

(a) Notate only the soprano and bass voices. Do not notate the alto and tenor voices.

(b) Make sure that any accidentals you use are appropriate for the key signature provided.

(c) On the blanks provided under the staff, write the Roman and Arabic numerals that indicate the chords and their inversions. (Each blank should contain at least a Roman numeral, a figure, or a dash.)

(d) Make sure to align your notes with the blanks provided.

**Question 3.** Before listening to the first playing, please look at the staff below. Notice that there are nine chords in the progression; the soprano and bass notes and the Roman numeral of the first chord are given.

Now listen to the progression for the first time and begin working.

The progression for **Question 3** will now be played a second time.

The progression for **Question 3** will now be played a third time.

The progression for **Question 3** will now be played a final time.

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# Question 3

**Note:** Student samples are quoted verbatim and may contain spelling and grammatical errors.

**Overview**

This question assessed students' ability to:

- hear a four-part progression in a major key and notate the outer voices;
- provide the correct Roman numeral analysis of the chords;
- demonstrate a knowledge of common chord progressions, including a passing six-four;
- hear and notate triads in root position and in inversion and a seventh chord in third inversion; and
- hear, notate, and analyze an imperfect authentic cadence.

**Sample: 3A**
**Score: 21**

This represents a very good response. The student correctly notates all of the soprano pitches and all of the bass pitches; 16 points were awarded. The Roman numeral analysis for chords three, five, seven, eight, and nine is correct in both Roman numerals and Arabic figures; 5 points were awarded. The Roman numeral for chord 2 is incorrect. Chords 4 and 6 were left blank. (Soprano: 8; Bass: 8; Roman numerals: 5; Total = 21)

**Sample: 3B**
**Score: 13**

This represents a fair response. The student correctly notates two of the soprano pitches and eight of the bass pitches; 10 points were awarded. The Roman numeral analysis for chords two and nine is correct in both Roman numerals and Arabic figures; 2 points were awarded. The Roman numerals for chord seven are correct but the Arabic figure is incorrect. The Roman numeral for chord eight is correct but the Arabic figure is incorrect; ½ point was awarded for each. (Soprano: 2; Bass: 8; Roman numerals: 3; Total = 13)

**Sample: 3C**
**Score: 5**

This represents a poor response. The student correctly notates four of the soprano pitches; 4 points were awarded. None of the bass pitches is notated correctly; 0 points were awarded. The Roman numeral in chord three is correct but the Arabic figure is missing; ½ point was awarded. Soprano: 4; Bass: 0; Roman numerals: ½; Total = 4½ rounded up to 5.

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